

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 01171 032145 Z

73

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10

RSC-01 SCI-06 NSF-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 INRE-00 /162 W

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P R 032051 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7295

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS USUN 1171

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: AORG, UN, SGEN

SUBJ: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: USUN 1172

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED ON
MARCH 31 BY THE U. S. DELEGATION TO THE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

QUOTE

WE HAVE NOW COME DOWN TO THE WIRE, IN THE
DELIBERATIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE.

THE US. GOVERNMENT APPROACHED THIS SESSION
WITH ANTICIPATION. INDEED, WE TOOK QUITE
SERIOUSLY THE OPPORTUNITY TO MANIFEST OUR BELIEF
IN A BODY WHICH COULD ASSIST IN BOTH MEASURING
AND ACCELERATING THE PROCESS OF TRANSFER AND
ADAPTATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE AIMS
AND ASPIRATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE LEVEL AND COMPOSITION OF OUR DELEGATION,
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01171 032145 Z

REPRESENTING BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS,
FURTHER CONFIRMS OUR POSITION,

AT THE OUTSET, WE PUT FORTH IN CANDID TERMS
A DETAILED STATEMENT OF OUR ACTIVITIES, OUR PRO-
BLEMS, OUR CONCERNS, AND OUR CONSTRAINTS, WE ALSO
TRIED REPEATEDLY TO PUT FORTH THE NEED TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE ROLE AND WORK PROGRAM WHICH THIS
COMMITTEE WOULD ENVISION IN ASSISTING THE UN
SYSTEM IN REALIZING THE AIMS ENUMERATED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION UNHAPPILY REGRETS
THAT WE HAVE LARGELY FOREGONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
FIND OURSELVES, IDENTIFY OUR INTERESTS, AND
COMMENCE N.

(C) EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN; 70 ORE IMMEDIATE INCREASE FOR ALL WOMEN
WORKERS TO BRING MINIMUM WAGE LEVEL UP TO MINIMUM LEVEL FOR MEN,
PLUS ALL BASIC WAGE INCREASES IN PARA A ABOVE. AGREEMENT
THAT PIECE RATES SHALL BE THE SAME FOR MEN AND WOMEN AFTER 1
JULY 1973.

(D) AGREEMENT TO SHORTEN STANDARD WORK- WEEK TO 40 HOURS (FROM
PRESENT 41 3/4) COMMENDING DEC. 2, 1974.

(E) A TEN ORE INCREASE IN COST- OF- LIVING
INCREMENT, FROM 30 TO 40 ORE PER HOUR, COMMENCING 1 SEPT.
1973.

2. WITH THIS PROPOSAL, DANISH LO HAS WON TWO OF ITS
MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN POST-1945 PERIOD; EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN
AND 40- HOUR WEEK. THE NEW PROPOSAL IN MONETARY TERMS
IS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS THE PRE- TRIKE TENTATIVE
PROPOSAL; THIS WAS AGREED BY DESIGN SINCE BOTH SIDES
WERE CONCERNED WITH LIMITING INFLATIONARY EFFECT OF
SETTLEMENT. CHIEF ADVANTAGE WON BY LO IN RE- SHUFFLE
OF VARIOUS ITEMS WAS FORTY- HOUR WEEK-- A CONCESSION
WHICH EMPLOYERS HAD EARLIER FLATLY REJECTED.

3. EMPLOYER FEDERATION (DA) HAD DEMANDED A FIRM
COMMITMENT FROM SOCDEM GOVERNMENT OR LO THAT NO
LEGISLATION WOULD BE ENACTED AFFECTING LABOR COSTS
WITHOUT " PRIOR AGREEMENT", AND IT REJECTED PRE- STRIKE
PROPOSAL OF MARCH 16 LARGELY BECAUSE IT DID NOT CONTAIN
SUCH PROVISION. ON THIS CENTRAL ISSUE, NEW PROPOSAL
CONTAINS A COMPROMISE FORMULATION CALLING FOR " PRIOR
CONSULTATION", BUT NOT " PRIOR AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE
LABOR MARKET PARTIES BEFORE LEGISLATIVE ACTION IS
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PAGE 03 COPENH 00670 031826 Z

RESORTED TO. IF EMPLOYERS ACCEPT COMPROMISE FORMULATION,
THIS WILL REPRESENT CONCESSION TO LO POINT OF VIEW .
APPLICABILITY OF THIS COMPROMISE AGREEMENT TO THE
PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY IS NOT YET CLEAR.

THE LO ' S THOMAS NIELSEN MAINTAINS THAT ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY, HAVING ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED AS LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL, IS EXEMPT FROM THE AGREEMENT. THE DA, ON OTHER HAND, CONTENDS THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE PRESENT ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PROPOSAL-- AND AMENDMENTS WILL BE NECESSARY-- WILL BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATION RULE.

4. THE NEW MEDIATION PROPOSAL CONTAINS TWO OTHER ELEMENTS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE RELATIVELY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES: (A) AN AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN LIMITING ABSENTEEISM UNDER THE NEW SICK PAY REFORM AND (B) AN AGREEMENT TO RECOMMEND THAT A GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION REVIEW ENTIRE SUBJECT OF COST- OF- LIVING ESCALATORS IN LABOR CONTRACTS. THE LATTER PROPOSAL IS NOT, HOWEVER, AIMED AT ABOLITION OF COST- OF- LIVING ESCALATOR SYSTEM BUT RATHER AT REVISING ESCALATOR SYSTEM FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO MAKE IT MORE EQUIVALENT TO THAT IN EFFECT FOR BLUE COLLAR WORKERS.

5. DESPITE DECLARATION OF BOTH SIDES THIS SPRING THAT SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE MODEST, PRESENT PROPOSAL WILL CLEARLY BE INFLATIONARY. ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE OF INCREASED WAGES AND BENEFITS UNDER THIS SETTLEMENT IS 1.1 BILLION KRONER (177 MILLIION DOLLARS) OVER COURSE OF THE TWO- YEAR CONTRACT. IN COMPARISON TO TOTAL ANNUAL WAGE BILL PAID BY THE DA IN 1972 THIS PROPOSAL REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 7.5 PERCENT PREVIOUS AGREEMENT, REACHED IN 1971, REPRESENTED INCREASE OF ONLY 6.3 PERCENT. THIS COMPARES WITH AN ESTIMATED PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE OF 4.0 PERCENT DURING COMING YEAR. (ABOVE CALCULATIONS NOT DIRECTLY COMPARABLE WITH FIGURES IN PARA 4 OF COPENHAGEN 568).

5. MEDIATOR' S PROPOSAL WILL BE VOTED UPON AT LOCAL UNION MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR LATTER PART OF THIS WEEK. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EMPLOYERS FEDERATION WILL THEN CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL APRIL 9. IF APPROVED BY BOTH SIDES, AS PRESENTLY ANTICIPATED, CONFLICT WILL TERMINATE

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PAGE 04 COPENH 00670 031826 Z

AT MIDNIGHT APRIL 9.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN01171
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730459/abqcdyvw.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 1172
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
TAGS: AORG, UN, SGEN
To: STATE INFO VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005